



T.H.  
124-02  
#2/HDS  
Attorney Docket No. MP/157

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : PALACIOS et al.  
Appl. No. : 10/026,108  
Filed : December 20, 2001  
Title : APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR  
APPLYING REINFORCEMENT  
MATERIAL TO A SURGICAL STAPLER

*I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on November 18, 2002.*

*Melanie Williams*  
Melanee Williams

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**RECEIVED**

NOV 27 2002

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56 and in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.97-1.98, information relating to the above-identified application is hereby disclosed. Inclusion of information in this statement is not to be construed as an admission that this information is material as that term is defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b). Copies of each of the references listed on the attached Form PTO Form 1449 are enclosed herewith.

In accordance with § 1.97(b), since this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed either within three months of the filing date of the above-identified application, within three months of the date of entry into the national stage of the above-identified application as set forth in §1.491, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits of the above-identified application, no additional fee is required.

Respectfully Submitted,

*David J. Johns*

David J. Johns  
Reg. No. 31,527  
W. L. Gore & Associates, Inc.  
551 Paper Mill Road  
P.O. Box 9206  
Newark, DE 19714-9206  
(928) 864-4800

Date: 11/18/02





3739

Attorney Docket No. MP/157

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : PALACIOS et al.  
Appl. No. : 10/026,108  
Filed : December 20, 2001  
Title : APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR  
APPLYING REINFORCEMENT  
MATERIAL TO A SURGICAL STAPLER

*I hereby certify that this correspondence is being  
deposited with the United States Postal Service as first  
class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant  
Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on  
November 18, 2002.*

*Melanie Williams*  
Melanee Williams

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**RECEIVED****NOV 27 2002**

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

**LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL**

Dear Sir:

We enclose the following papers for filing in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in  
connection with the above-identified Patent Application:

1. Information Disclosure Statement (1 page)
2. Information Disclosure Citation Form PTO 1449 (1 page)
3. References Cited (7 documents)

Respectfully submitted,

*David J. Johns*  
David J. Johns  
Reg. No. 31,527  
W. L. Gore & Associates, Inc.  
551 Paper Mill Road  
P.O. Box 9206  
Newark, DE 19714-9206  
(928) 864-4800

Date: 11/18/02